HERPETOLOGIA

NOTES IN COLOMBIAN HERPETOLOGY, III.

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A New Caecilian of the Genus *Gymnopis*.

In my recent paper on American Caecilians (Dec. 1942, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 91, 6) the six then known specimens of *Gymnopis* from Colombia were regarded as of one species, *G. nicefori* Barbour, with a range from Cáceres in the Lower Cauca in northern Antioquia (alt. 150 m.) to Honda, Girardot and San Juan de Rioseco (alt. 1300 m.) in the Upper Magdalena valley. Later examination of four additional specimens from the Upper Magdalena valley, Honda (3) and Aguas Blancas in Tolima, seemed to confirm this view. It is therefore with some surprise that I find that a specimen of *Gymnopis,* taken by me at El Centro, in the Central Magdalena valley, on Dec. 24, 1943, is not *nicefori,* and must be described as new. I name it in honor of my friend Wilfred Devereux Price, Esq., to whom I am indebted for kind assistance and hospitality at El Centro.

Gymnopis pricei sp. nov.

TYPE: In the collection of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Bogotá.

TYPE-LOCALITY: El Centro, Santander, alt. about 150 m.

DIAGNOSIS: A small *Gymnopis;* tentacle close to eye; 26 secondaries (less than in any other form with similar tentacle position).

DESCRIPTION: 108 primaries; 26 secondaries, last six complete; eye visible; tentacle immediately in front of eye; length 145 mm.; diameter 4 mm.; length-diameter ratio 36; color blackish gray, lighter below; head light gray.

DISCUSSION: The following table shows the characters of *nicefori* and *pricei* of Colombia and *unicolor* of the Guianas. I list the *nicefori* in three lines, Magdalena valley, Cauca valley, and San Juan de Rioseco. The last was tiny (100 mm.) and "ill-preserved for counting" (Dunn, *l. c.*, p. 471), and I would not stress its low secondary count.

Along with the specimen of *pricei* I list the characters of AMNH 1335 from "S. Amer." I list British Guiana *unicolor* separately from those of French Guiana (the type locality).

	Prim.	Sec.	l/d	Prim.-Sec.
G. nicefori				
Magdalena valley (five)	150-158	97-104	39-67	49-56
Cauca valley	138	95	41	43
San Juan de Rioseco	133	45	50	88
G. pricei	108	26	36	82
AMNH 1335	109	22	34	87
G. unicolor				
Brit. Guiana	100	44	40	56
Fr. Guiana (eight)	108-120	55-74	27-39	41-64

It is obvious that the specimen from "S. Amer.", AMNH 1335, is practically identical with the specimen from El Centro. Of the former I said (*l. c.* p. 472) "additional similar specimens, with locality, might be the basis for a new form". Almost exactly a year later an additional specimen has been found in Colombia. It is obvious that *pricei* is more like the Guiana form than like *nicefori*. Besides the low secondary count which differentiates *pricei* from *unicolor*, the former has visible eyes. The eyes are not visible in any Guiana specimens.

The specimen of *Gymnopis pricei* was taken in a very rotten (soft) log. It thrashed about violently when caught, much like an earthworm.

The Snake Genus *Dendrophidion* in Colombia.

I here report on the three species which seem to me to constitute the Colombian fauna of this genus. I have met with two species in the field, and some thirty specimens have been available for examination. One species appears to be undescribed. The three forms may be distinguished as follows:

A. Dorsal scales 15-15; olive, a row of black dots each side of the middorsal line .. .. **boshelli**
AA. Scales 17-15; striped or cross-barred.
B. Striped; caudals 92-126 .... **bi-vittatum**
BB. Cross-barred; caudals 138-151 .... **percarinatum**

Genus **Dendrophidion** Fitzinger, 1843, Syst. Rept., p. 26.

GENOTYPE: *Herpetodryas dendrophis* Schlegel 1837.

RANGE: Guatemala to the Guianas, Bolivia, and Peru.

CONTENT: Six species, three in Colombia.

DEFINITION: Snakes allied to *Herpetodryas dendrophis* Schlegel; maxillary teeth 33-50, posterior enlarged, ungrooved, no gap; hemipenis single, sulcus single, calyces only at tip, few and large; dorsal scales 17-15 or 15-15, with two pits, at least the middorsal rows keeled; anal single or double; subcaudals in two rows; tail long; snake slim.

REMARKS: The genus is allied on the one hand to *Drymobius*, which differs in having half the hemipenis calyculate and having fewer maxillary teeth (23-34); on the other hand to *Chironius*, which differs in having half the hemipenis calyculate, maxillary teeth fewer (app. 28), scales in even number of rows (10 or 12).

Dendrophidion boshelli sp. nov.

TYPE: A young female in the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, collected by Dr. Jorge Boshell M., of the Rockefeller Institute, in October 1943.

TYPE LOCALITY: Volcanes, 250 m. alt., Municipio de Caparrapí, Cundinamarca.

RANGE: Known only from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: A *Dendrophidion* with 15-15 dorsals; keels on all dorsals except lower three rows; 142 ventrals; markings a double row of dots on each side of middorsal line.

DESCRIPTION: Female; upper labials 9, fourth, fifth, and sixth in eye; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-2; dorsals 15-15, lower three smooth, rest keeled; ventrals 142; anal single; tail imperfect; head black, upper lip white; dorsum olive, scales with lighter center; black spots on each side of the middorsal line (these spots occupy the adjacent tips of scales of the fifth and seventh rows and are separated from each other lengthwise by two scales of the sixth row); belly white except for tip of ventrals being of dorsal color, and for a black spot

near the anterior outer edge of each ventral; head and body length 252 mm.; tail length 50 mm. (incomplete).

REMARKS: Since the only other *Dendrophidion* with 15-15 scale rows is *dendrophis,* which was described from Surinam as having all scales keeled and being cross-barred (color of Colombian *percarinatum*), there is no question as to this form being new.

Dendrophidion bi-vittatum (Duméril and Bibron),

Leptophis bi-vittatus Duméril and Bibron, 1854, Erp. Gén., 7, p. 540.

TYPE LOCALITY: New Granada.

RANGE: Darien, Panamá; Colombia through Antioquia, Caldas and Tolima to Santander, Boyacá and Cundinamarca; 535 to 2300 meters.

DESCRIPTION: Upper labials 9 (rarely 10), 4th, 5th and 6th in eye; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-2; ventrals 145-155 (152 in type), no marked sexual difference; anal double; caudals 92-126 (109 in type), no marked sexual difference; dorsals 17-15; color in life dull green above, scales with ligth edges; below cream, anterior edge of ventrals black, specially at tip (on throat only at tip and only every other ventral); a black streak through eye; a light stripe on vertebral scale row on body and tail; dorsolateral dark stripe beginning as spots about three scales apart which fuse to a chocolate stripe with black specks on rows 6-7-8 (posteriorly on half of 4, and 5-6-7; on tail narrowing to two half rows); ventrolateral dark stripe beginning as spots, fusing to a stripe on rows 3-4 (posteriorly on 2-3; on tail on 1 and ventral edge).

MATERIAL: Twenty-three specimens.

PANAMA: Cerro Sapo, Garachiné Pen, Darien, 3000 feet. A specimen represented by head and neck only.

COLOMBIA: ANTIOQUIA: Jericó, 1967 m.; Medellín, 1538 m., four; Bello, 1520 m. It has been reported from Yarumal, 2300 m., and Rionegro, 2120 m. It perhaps occurs at San Pedro, 2560 m. and Santa Rosa de Osos, 2640 m., as the American Museum writes me they have specimens from there.

CALDAS: Manizales, 2150 m.; Pererira, 1467 m.

TOLIMA: Mariquita, 535 m.

SANTANDER: Socorro, 1230 m.

BOYACÁ: Muzo, 824 m. four.

CUNDINAMARCA: Sasaima, 1225 m., two; Santander, 1700 m., two. It has been recorded from Apulo, 800 m.

Dendrophidion percarinatum (Cope).

Drymobius percarinatus Cope, 1893, Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 31, p. 344.

TYPE LOCALITY: Boruca and Buenos Aires, Costa Rica.

RANGE: Central America to Colombia (possibly Mexico to Peru and Bolivia).

DESCRIPTION: Brown or gray above, ligh below, ventral tips of dorsal color; numerous vague narrow black cross bars, which contain light dots; ventrals 152-162 in three males, 162-163 in four females; anal single in two specimens, divided in five; caudals 140-151 in three males, 138-142 in three females; upper labials 9; dorsals 17-15 in all.

	Vent.	Anal	Caud.	Sex
Quibdó, Chocó (140 m.)	163	2	138	female
Río Napipí, Chocó	162	2	144	male
El Centro Santander (150 m.)	159	2	151	male
San Vicente de Chucurí Santander (692 m.)	162	1	142	female
Muzo, Boyacá (824 m.)	152	1	140	male
Paime, Cundinamarca (1038 m.)	162	1	...	female
No locality	162	2	138	female

REMARKS: The original description gives ventrals 155, anal 1, caudals 145, which fits Colombian specimens. The narrow range of variation in caudal count gives no indication of any correlation with a single or a double anal. This snake has usually been called *dendrophis,* but the *Herpetodryas dendrophis* of Schlegel 1837 (Phys. Serp. 2, p. 196), from Surinam, had dorsals 15-15, ventrals 140, caudals 196, a set of scale counts which fit no Colombian or Central American snake, and certainly not this one, although the color pattern of *dendrophis* is given as very similar indeed to that of *percarinatum.*

I have seen many specimens of this snake from Panamá and Costa Rica.